"Bee"

Aug. 14, 1938.

Judges 14:8 Behold a swarm of bees and honey.

INTRO. Jesus' close observation of all nature, often drawing great lessoms from common objects such as grain-fields, birds, trees, etc.

In humble imitation of the Master, I wish to speak, this a.m., concerning one of the order of Hymenoptera, of the genus ~~Apidae~~ Apis, the Apidae or common honey-bee.

We began our vacation with a fight against six swarms of bees located in our mountain cabin near Los Gatos. After five days of campaigning we had to retire from the field, ignominiously defeated. Upon our return from Tuolumne Meadows we made a second attack upon the remaining two swarms and finally overcame them.

I. The bees did not respect private property rights and swarmed in the house without permission. Not understanding them and they not understanding us, we fought for possession of the premises.

Most differences between nations and between individuals arise because of disregard for the rights of others and thru misunderstandings and the lack of understanding. Selfishness and greed, with their utter lack of fair play create most of the world's

II. troubles.

III. When the swarms are young and small, the bees do not bother, but when well-established, large and overcrowded, they becometroublesome.

Persons who are struggling to succeed are usually obliging and friendly. When success has been achieved, however, and they find themselves well-established, they often become arrogant and uppish. Nations and peoples as a whole act the same way. When powerful and strong, they like to rule over the weaker ones, taking advantage of their prestige and influence, to dominate and exploit.

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III. So long as the swarm is intact and the queen bee is safe, the bees maintain a very high morale and are ever ready to fight in self-defense. But when the queen has been destroyed and the swarm broken up, the remaining bees lose their "spirit" or "nerve". They cease attacking, get drunk on the honey and die.

Many people, when they suffer heavy losses, lose their spirit, some of them lose their self-respect, their faith in life itself, they become hard-hearted and even cynical.

IV. In the complexity of their social life and the subdividion of their community functions, the bees are superior to the ants and as such can teach us humans some valuable lessons.

1. Aswarm of bees numbers from 10 to 80 thousand.
   a. The Queen bee is the mother of the swarm.

   b. Drones or males, so named from their droning noise, have no stings or pollen pockets. Teir work as important to the life of the hive as that of the other bees.

   c. The workers- females, smaller than the queen. Their unfertilized eggs hatch out into drones.

2. <u>Structure of the bee</u>. An insect with 2prs of wings, a head, thorax and an abdomen.

   a. Its tongue. b. Its tiny crop. c. Its legs with pocket and hairs to carry pollen.
   d. Its sting- best known part and least appreciated

3. The life of the hive thru one season.
   In winter, the queen and female workers(no drones) remain inactive.
   In spring- suddenly the whole hive becomes active and all go to work with a will.

a. Division of labor.
The queen begins laying eggs, directed to the cells by her body-guard.
Nurses who care and feed the larvae
Capsule-makers seal the honey cells into which another group have dropt formic acid frmm their stings to preserve the honey.

The sanitary brigade keeps the hive free from all dust and dirt- broken wings, etc.
Other workers ventilate the hive
Carriers of dead bees and undeveloped larvae
Helpers who aid overburdened bees to reach the hive with their heavy loads.
Guards at the entrance.
Makers of wax plates for the cells
Sealers of the wax plates into cells

b. Swarming. Suddenly a change comes over the hive, and the queen with about 3/4 of the swarm leave the old home and set out for a new one.

The remaining workers allow one of the new queens to come forth and act as queen of the hive. She first stings to death the other princesses and then sets to work, as has already been described.

In the fall all drones are stung to death.

4. The hives can be many and close together and yet each bee knows its own hive and its rightful place in the hive. No fighting or confusion among them! Maeterlink mentions in his "Life of the Bee" what he calls the "spirit of the hive" which makes for perfect co-operation on the part of every bee in the swarm and for mutual understanding between the different swarms.

Why can there not be such a spirit among the various races and peoples of the world? Such co-operation and understanding as would enable every individual to know his place and do his part?

The Spirit of Jesus Chirst and His understanding of God and man can give to the nations just such a spirit of humanity which functioning thru cooperative effort would place every individual in his rightful place for creative work and which would keep the world in the much-desired peace of diversified unity.

Even as the bee, each person would strive to present himself before God as a workman who needeth not to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth as it is given to us in the spirit and understanding of Jesus Christ.